

but you know the scheduling around here, as I do. Again, we thank you for all you have given to the committee, to the Congress, to the country, to your constituents and wish you the best, whether you are with ERISA or whether you are with Ruth, I wish you the best both ways.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE
ESTEBAN TORRES ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to host a special order this evening in honor of my friend and colleague Congressman ESTEBAN E. TORRES. ESTEBAN has served the people of the 34th Congressional District of California for 16 years. Those were years in which our country lived through the administrations of President Reagan, President Bush and President Clinton. During this time, the world witnessed the fall of communism in the Soviet Union, the rise of democracy in Latin America, and the end of billion-dollar U.S. budget deficits. Through it all, ESTEBAN has been a part of that history, not only by serving here as a Member but by being an active participant in these events. He has traveled throughout the world and met with the leaders of every superpower. In these journeys he has not only learned about the problems facing other countries but he has conveyed the meaning of freedom and the significance of democratic institutions that value the integrity of individual choice. I can think of no one person whose life better illustrates the American dream than ESTEBAN TORRES. Well, maybe my mom and dad, ESTEBAN. But here is a man who truly pulled himself up by his bootstraps.

He is the son of immigrants who came to this country seeking a better way of life. How often have we heard that? He struggled as a young man to overcome some tough times, growing up in the barrio of east Los Angeles. He is a veteran of the Korean Conflict and rose through the union ranks to the international of the United Auto-workers. From there he went on to serve the Carter administration in the White House and then he ran for his seat in this House. Through it all, he and his wife Arcy raised their daughters Carmen, Rena, Selina, Camille and their son Steve, and they have been blessed with 11 grandchildren. I know that his family is as proud of what he has accomplished as the people who are privileged to call him their friend. He has distinguished himself as a subcommittee chairman and as a member of the Banking Committee and Appropriations Committee.

No one will ever forget the leadership, ESTEBAN, that you showed during

the passage of NAFTA and the establishment of the North American Development Bank. Throughout your career, you have been more than a friend. You have been a role model and you have been a mentor. There are many of us serving in government and business who claim and can claim that they got their start and their learning by following the example of ESTEBAN TORRES. I can say that he not only enthusiastically supported me when I first ran for office but was always there to give me advice and support during some very difficult and dark days. For your courage and your willingness to stand by me, I want you to know, ESTEBAN, that I am eternally grateful.

ESTEBAN, you will be remembered in this House not for cutting things and stopping projects but for building, for building opportunities for people and confidence in people and yes, for the hope that people carry in their hearts because of your example and what you have done. While I for one will miss your advice and counsel, I am happy that you are moving on to do other things that interest you and that will help our community in the long run. I know you will not be idle but very active in pursuing these other concerns. I know you will not be a stranger to this institution. I look forward to seeking your guidance. On behalf of all the people whose lives you have touched in so many different ways, you have really made an impact. I know when I see young children, and they have your name on their lips, of mentor and role model.

Thank you for the service you have given to this House and thank you for the service that you have given to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I also thank the gentleman from California. Unfortunately I have some meetings going on upstairs in the Rules office. I wanted to go back up, but before anything else, I wanted to be on this floor to, Mr. Speaker, pay tribute to a really great American, and when I say that, I say that from my heart.

There was a time back in 1950 when communism was on a roll. It looked like that atheistic philosophy was going to take over the world. The United States Government with a President named Harry Truman, and I was a Democrat back in those days, ESTEBAN, when Harry Truman saw fit to send American troops to Korea, and that is where we stopped communism dead in its tracks. If it were not for that, who knows what the world would be like today.

I never had the privilege to serve in combat in Korea and, ESTEBAN, you did. You and I went there last August, as a matter of fact. We went up to the 38th parallel to the DMZ. On our way, we stopped and we saw the terrible flood damage that was done by the floods that took place there which de-

stroyed \$300 million worth of American equipment and living quarters for our soldiers. As we stood on that 38th parallel, you could see that ESTEBAN TORRES was overcome, having been there at the time. I just wanted to stand up here and tell you, ESTEBAN, that you are a great American. You have been a great Congressman. We are going to sorely miss you. I will not be here to miss you, but you and I are going to keep an eye, you from California and me from the Adirondack Mountains, we are going to keep an eye on these other two Californians here and make sure that things are going right. I am sure they will.

I just want to wish you and Arcy, you have a wonderful wife, I wish the two of you the best and hope we continue to see each other. I salute you, sir.

Ms. SANCHEZ. I thank the gentleman from New York. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding. I would like to begin by thanking her for taking this time for a very important special order.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few things that every Member hopes to hear upon retirement from this institution. We want others to say that we have been effective, that we worked hard to represent the interests of our districts, and that we will be missed by our colleagues. As one who represents a neighboring district, who worked with ESTEBAN TORRES on both the Banking and the Small Business committees and who because of redistricting has had the opportunity to represent many of the same communities and the same people, I can say all of those fine things about my colleague from West Covina. I am saying that he is from West Covina by letting a secret out that he actually is a constituent of mine and I am very proud of the fact that when I got West Covina back in that reapportionment process that he chose to stay in West Covina with me as his representative.

His work was critical to the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement which I truly believe is one of the greatest bipartisan achievements of this decade. When the House debated the NAFTA, he worked with the Clinton administration and those of us on both sides of the aisle to create the North American Development Bank which built support for the agreement and secured important votes for its passage.

□ 1800

I have also had the opportunity to work with my neighbor on important local issues such as clean up of ground water in the San Gabriel Basin where ESTEBAN led the effort to authorize the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project. This demonstration project along with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority has enabled residents and businesses in the San Gabriel Valley to pursue a locally led response to the problem of ground water

pollution. The goal has been to give all stakeholders an interest in a successful clean up and to avoid the litigation nightmare that has characterized the Superfund program.

And I should also add that I worked with him on dealing with the closure of a large, what was a toxic chemical dump in west West Covina, and he was key in that, and I found working with him on that to be very, very important because we were able to work on it in a bipartisan way.

Besides the important environmental initiatives, he and I have worked together to support another issue that has been very key for the San Gabriel Valley, local transportation and getting funding for the Foothill Transit Authority. He was very, very key. He and I regularly testified before his appropriations committee in behalf of this. This is a local bus project which has repeatedly been cited by national officials as a great model of both the public and private partnership in dealing with the transit needs that exist.

I should also say, Mr. Speaker, that not everyone knows that ESTEBAN TORRES is a very accomplished artist. He often has the chance to sit down and very quickly is able to do these great drawings of people and of places and things, and it is a talent that very few of us have, and I am glad that ESTEBAN TORRES has been able to regularly utilize that when he served here in the Congress. I have seen some of the great caricatures that he has done.

Mr. Speaker, I often comment on what a pleasure it is to work on bipartisan initiatives that benefit both the American people and the constituents whom I am proud to represent in the San Gabriel Valley, and I am very pleased to say that I have such a relationship with ESTEBAN TORRES. He has created a very impressive legacy of service that is equal to that of many of our more senior colleagues. I have truly enjoyed working with ESTEBAN, and I wish him, Arcy and their wonderful family all the best as they pursue together what I am sure will be many rewarding endeavors in the future.

And I thank my friend for very generously yielding me this time, and I look forward to the other remarks, and I see my very good friend, Mr. ORTIZ, who I am sure will offer some great brilliance about our colleague, Mr. TORRES.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to Mr. ORTIZ from Texas.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, ESTEBAN TORRES is not the sort of man we can say goodbye to as he retires from this body. He is really family, and we know we will see him again and again and again. Also, like family, he is hard to describe in simple terms.

You are complex, my friend. You, as my good friend, DAVID DREIER said, are an artist, a statesman, a friend of labor, an inspiration to young people, and an example of how far one can go in life and a role model to many of us.

ESTEBAN's father was sent back to Mexico when he was a very young man

in Arizona. He has been through much in his life, and he has accomplished much in his life. Under his direction, the East Los Angeles Community Union grew into one of the largest anti-poverty agencies in the country. In 1976 President Carter appointed him Ambassador to the United Nations education, scientific and cultural organization, UNESCO, and later a Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs.

ESTEBAN and I came to Congress together as classmates in 1983, a few years back. As my colleagues know, we have watched the good and bad associated with this institution during our tenure. They have been decidedly that we have had some low moments, and there has been some moments of majesty that impressed the world. Together we have seen it all, and now ESTEBAN has decided that he has simply seen enough.

There are a host of stories about ESTEBAN that I would love to share with all of you, but they are probably best remembered privately between us in the cloakroom. But one of my fondest memories is to see you on the floor, in the hallway or in the cloakroom with your scratch pad and a pencil drawing the things you saw on the front row of history. I still have one of your sketches, and I will treasure it for the rest of my life.

In the first really big floor fight of my tenure I took to the floor in opposition to the use of turtle extruder devices, TEDS, in commercial shrimping. ESTEBAN knew it was an important moment for me, and he sketched the action of what was happening on the floor. Especially for me he sketched it, and I think you remember that, ESTEBAN.

And I remember walking into the cloakroom in 1997 while the Iran-Contra hearings were going on. Democratic members were being accused of not paying appropriate attention to the daily testimony before the committee. So you sketched a view of many democratic members watching the testimony on our closed-circuit TV in the cloakroom.

Thank you for capturing the moments of our lives of our service here on Capitol Hill. Your friendship is a friendship I will miss and I will always cherish since you are family, and we will not say goodbye. I will say good luck to you and Arcy, and I hope you will come back and continue to talk to us and make us laugh and continue to draw those beautiful sketches with stories about life, about those of us who serve in Congress.

May God bless you, and I know that whatever you do, ESTEBAN, God will bless you, and you will prosper and do well not only for you and your family but for your neighbors and your community. Godspeed and God bless you.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Thank you, Mr. ORTIZ.

You know, one of the great things about ESTEBAN, and I do not know if

you know this, ESTEBAN, is that you are from, grown up in, I think in Arizona, from a small mining town, and the next mining town over, Kearny, is where much of my family comes from. So you are heralded not only in California where you have represented the 34th so well, but you are also known very well in Arizona, and of course we know you in California. I know you because of my family in Pico Rivera who support you and understand the important issues that you have brought forward for the people of that district; for example, when we have been taking a look at transit in Los Angeles and ensuring that our transit system, whether it be buses or a fixed rail, would come to the communities of East Los Angeles, and you have been there fighting consistently for that. I recall just this past year right before we approved the transportation bill the fact that you were out in Los Angeles fighting to ensure that moneys would be devoted for the transit for those of working class and lower income families.

And so we really appreciate that from you, ESTEBAN.

I yield to my colleague from Texas, Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. ORTIZ. You know, ESTEBAN, even though I am from Texas, he is no stranger to my State. In fact, his daughter married a young man or two daughters from Texas, and he spent a lot of time in my State, and he has got a lot of friends not only in our great State of Texas, but in our small communities. He was there when our people were harvesting watermelons or corn or grain, and we spent a lot of time together. In fact he was my guest on several radio shows and television shows.

And as I was coming here, some of the people found out some way, somehow that you were retiring, ESTEBAN, and they wanted me to relate to you that Texas is still, I guess, your second home, and they would like for you to come back and visit with us. So you will be welcome any time.

And I know that we travel to many places together as Members of Congress. ESTEBAN was somebody that was always focused on the issues, and he was able to talk to dignitaries from other countries, and since he was an ambassador we felt that he was the only guy that was able to make sense on all the stuff that we are talking about.

So, ESTEBAN, I just wanted to let you know that my friends and your friends from South Texas relay a message to you:

Come back to South Texas and visit with us soon.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the fact that ESTEBAN has always been a big asset in any travel that we have done. In fact, he not only knows the English and Spanish, but of course is very fluent in French and has just been an asset whenever we have traveled. So it is all of these assets that compose this that we know that it

has been such a privilege to have you here in the House.

Our colleague from California.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman yielding, and I simply wanted to add my voice of high esteem to our good friend and colleague, ESTEBAN, on his graduation from this particular institution and very best wishes for the future. I particularly want to draw attention to the compassion of the man.

I have worked with him over the last year and a half, almost 2 years now, on ending a policy that is harmful to the people of Cuba, that is harmful to the compassion and sense of foreign policy which motivates so many Americans, and ESTEBAN has been the leader in this issue, that we recognize the Cold War is over, that it is time to trade, to have normal relations with the people of Cuba. And this is not still the most popular position to take on either side of the aisle, but it is the right position. It reflects a sense of where America is today and reflects a sense of caring for those persons who are most damaged by the system that we presently follow. And ESTEBAN TORRES has led this battle. It has been his leadership, it has been his dream. I regret that it has not yet been accomplished before you leave this institution, before Mr. TORRES leaves this institution. But I believe it will be and soon, and when it does happen, it is my belief that it will be because of the leadership of ESTEBAN TORRES and will be remembered in his honor.

I also note that ESTEBAN served our country in the Diplomatic Corps, and his service to our country in that capacity was prologue to his service here in the House and showed an awareness of a world community in which we participate and which is too often lost sight of.

So, Mr. Speaker, upon the departure of our good friend, ESTEBAN TORRES, I add my voice from the opposite side of the aisle but from the same great State of California to a humanitarian, to a Californian, to an American and to a citizen of the world and wish him our very best for all the years ahead.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Thank you, Mr. CAMPBELL, and next I have the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today it gives me great pleasure to rise in honor of one of our colleagues, a true visionary and a pioneer and a fellow Californian, the honorable Esteban TORRES.

Although I am really saddened by his departure from the halls of Congress and what it means in terms of his loss to the people of California, I am truly inspired by the legacy which he has left and the way in which his actions have touched and changed the lives of so many people. Congressman TORRES, knowing you and your background, knowing that you were the son of a Mexican born miner, you know firsthand what social justice is all about.

Since you were first elected to Congress in November of 1982 as a rep-

resentative of the 34th Congressional District, Congressman TORRES has worked hard to pass legislation addressing the needs of all of our communities. Throughout his almost two decades of dedicated service in this House he has been able to contribute his exceptional and unique knowledge of politics and his extraordinary life experiences to make the legislative process work for those with no voice.

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And long before coming to Congress, the gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES) was already a well-respected leader who worked on the assembly line as part of the automotive work force. What a history. He was a stand-out leader in the labor movement, traveling all over the Americas to help emerging democracies.

Congressman TORRES has been instrumental in providing humanitarian services and help to the people of Cuba. It is because of his leadership that the pastors for peace and the United States Department of Treasury have reached an accord to allow medical computers to be delivered to Cuban health care facilities where this equipment is desperately needed.

But the gentleman's commitment to the people of Cuba and to the rest of our Latin American neighbors goes far beyond humanitarian actions. Congressman TORRES has also raised his voice in the fight to close the School of the Americas, which has trained military dictators, in an effort to end this horrendous chapter in our history. I thank Congressman ESTEBAN TORRES for that and for taking lead on that. He has truly been a pioneer.

The list of your accomplishments, ESTEBAN, really inspires, not only Latinos and other people of color, but the working men and women everywhere. Congressman TORRES is a man of honor and an effective communicator and an extraordinary coalition builder which is so important for us in this day and time.

L. J. Cardinal once said, "Happy are those who dream dreams and are ready to pay the price to make them come true." Congressman TORRES is a living example of what can be done through hard work and dedication. So as we honor Congressman TORRES, we need to really recommit ourselves to work on behalf of those with no voice.

Congressman TORRES, as one of the newest Members of Congress, I promise that we are going to work to ensure that your legacy is preserved. So I just want to thank you so much for your commitment and your work on behalf of the working men and women of America. Your work and your deeds really do speak for themselves. You will be deeply missed. I wish you and your family Godspeed as you enter this next phase of your life.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. Underwood).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a couple of minutes

to express my admiration for the work of my very good friend ESTEBAN TORRES. ESTEBAN TORRES actually represents the district in which my mother-in-law and my wife are from, so I have a very strong connection to ESTEBAN. He has a very excellent reputation in the district for his constituent service and for his attention to the lives of the people that he represents.

But more than that, I have been here 6 years. When I first came, there were a number of people that I, through my membership in the Hispanic caucus, worked with, ESTEBAN and also Kika de la Garza who were a couple of people that we always look to for a little bit of extra guidance.

All those times that we have had many discussions, I remember several times in my first term that I came down to the floor and asked ESTEBAN for his help in understanding the procedures, and he graciously gave me the time and provided me that kind of extra insight into the workings of the institution.

But more than that, in almost every issue that I have seen come before the caucus or come before this body, ESTEBAN demonstrated a level of dignity and grace that befits him, his personality, his background, and also speaks to the kinds of conditions that made ESTEBAN TORRES possible in this world.

He has a very interesting personal life story. He has overcome many trials and tribulations in his life. He has been able to turn those experiences into positives, into activities that have been good for all the people who may have not had the opportunities that many of us have in life, who did not have the same kind of background and education, and especially with specific attention to the workings of the Latino community and in his help and his assistance in being an inspiration to that community.

So I just wanted to take the time to salute you, ESTEBAN, for your work in civil rights, for your work in the labor movement, for being an inspiration to the people in your district, whom I know many, and also for helping me during my first couple of years here in Congress. I know we are going to be seeing much more of you. This is just the end of one of many chapters to go.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by first thanking the gentlewoman from California, my colleague from California for yielding to me and also for scheduling this time for us to have an opportunity to say a few good words about a close friend and someone who we respect dearly.

Congressman ESTEBAN TORRES is perhaps for me best described as the person who helped me learn the ropes here in Washington, D.C. This is my third term. I can recall the first time I had a chance to really come to Washington, D.C., it was because Congressman

TORRES was willing to take me around. He guided me through when I was first here, not yet quite a Member. He took me around and let me sit in the gallery. He explained to me what was going on, explained the process, pointed out colleagues, made it clear what the process was in preparation for the actual opportunity to serve.

Now I have been here, this is my sixth year, and I have had an opportunity to see what it means to be a Member of Congress.

I am going to miss the gentleman from California greatly. I see him as a mentor, but more than that, I see him as a very close friend. I use him as an example of the American dream so often. Too often we forget that great things sometimes come in small packages. Sometimes they come in quiet packages.

In this case, they come in the package of a man who, at first blush, in his youth, probably was like many of our youth, not seen as someone who could achieve so many different things, yet this man is possessed with so many different talents.

He could have probably been a very wealthy artist selling paintings and making a lucrative living out of his artistic abilities. If my colleagues have ever had a chance to watch the Congressman as he sits here and watches the debate unfold, he is able to capture the essence of our colleagues in just a matter of moments on any piece of paper it might be.

He easily could have become an artist and had fame and fortune that way, but he chose to serve and serve in so many different capacities. But I look back at what he has done, and I remember that this is a gentleman who, like many Americans, probably was not singled out as the one who would lead in America.

Yet, among those who do not get singled out, he showed us what it does to continue to fight, what it means to continue to fight, and what it does to us when we do fight. You get a place like this, a place that most people would ever believe that we would ever have a chance to step foot on.

So here we are today. Congressman TORRES has decided to move on. He is still in good health, good standing. I think that is a tribute to his remarkable success as well that, on a high note, he decides to leave, when many, whether it is from sports or in other careers, decide to leave when they are already on the decline.

This is a gentleman who certainly has many good years in front of him and certainly all his colleagues believe could have many more years here in Congress; everyone would desire that he to do it that way. But he has chosen to leave. For that, I think he deserves a great deal of respect because he has left the legacy.

Let me return to what I said before. This is not someone who we were expecting to be here; someone who dropped out of school. ESTEBAN, I say

that with the utmost of respect, because I know you, and I have seen so many kids who have dropped out of school, in many cases perhaps within our own families. So see where you have gotten.

I enjoy so much being able to point to you and say folks never believe that some of us would have a chance to get where we are. I am where I am because folks like you open doors. I am hoping that I can open doors for young children that I get to visit in the schools, in my district, and throughout this country.

That is perhaps the most beautiful thing about being able to come up here and speak about you. You are going to walk out of here proud, tall, and still live a fruitful life for many, many years. You will be able to recount your tales. You are not going to leave here in a state where no one will be able to share the wisdom and the creative stories that have made your future.

I am very pleased that I could come down here and speak for a few minutes. If I could just close on a couple of final notes because I know folks have said so many things about your distinguished career in UNESCO as Ambassador, when you served so ably as representative with the labor movement, with the United Auto Workers.

If I can just mention one thing that I think is perhaps most beloved to you and cherished in making your life successful, and that is of course Arcy, your wife. I know from having had an opportunity with Carolina, my wife, to share some time with you and Arcy that what makes you tick is easily spelled by just spelling Arcy's name. I know what she means to you.

I hope that a number of us have the opportunity, if we have a chance to serve the way you have, not just to emulate your political career, but also your family.

I would like to be able to say to Arcy, although she is not sitting next to you, as often she is, I know the role she has played from helping you succeed. I know the love and the goodwill that you share as partners in life.

I think perhaps, along with all the other attributes that makes you such a special person, special Member of Congress, is the fact that you have always shown Arcy how much you care about her. I think, these days, that is so very important because this is a very difficult life.

Some folks do not understand it, but you have held up the highest standards, not just as a public official but certainly as a man, as a husband, as a father. Whether or not you have ever had this career, the best role model I can ever have is someone like you when it comes to family.

So to a good friend, a mentor, and someone I hope to maintain close relationships with, I want to say to you, we will miss you. We look forward to many good years, your wisdom, your creativity. I look forward to continuing a friendship with you and Arcy that

began many years ago and was very fruitful for me and has taken me a long way.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California that he made about how ESTEBAN is one of those people that has always opened doors for people, and I know that my colleague believes that, and I do, too.

I remember the first time I met you, ESTEBAN, it was at an event for you; and I walked away saying this guy is talking about everything that I believe in, the opportunities for people to excel. It made me want to join you here in Congress and make changes. So I think that is prevalent to almost anybody who has run across the path of ESTEBAN TORRES.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest because we have a chance to come to know people on both sides of the aisle when we come here to the people's House. And the gentleman from California often talks about her kin folks in Kearny, Arizona, the area I am pleased and proud to represent.

I am also proud of the fact that our friend who is preparing to leave the people's House, Congressman TORRES, is from Miami, Arizona in the Cobra Valley. Now as we know, that area is rich in two ways, in copper, so vital to our Nation and the world, but the most precious resource in those areas famous for their wealth in the mines and from the precious metals, the most precious resource of course is the people who live there and who come from a place like the Cobra Valley and from Miami, Arizona.

I guess we could say today, Mr. Speaker, that one of our famous exports from Arizona is our colleague, Congressman TORRES. Let me also say that we champion our differences as well as those of a kindred philosophy in this House, in our constitutional republic. We should actually gain comfort from the multitude of voices and opinions and points of view.

□ 1830

I am so pleased that Congressman TORRES really embodies the notion that I think General Eisenhower left for us when he talked about public life and public discourse and issues that come before us. He said, I always assume of those who oppose you politically that they want what is best for the country as well. They may have a different approach to get it done, but they, too, have something to bring to the table. And there may not always be unanimity, although I would note, I say to my colleagues, on this floor at this hour there is complete unanimity in celebrating the achievements and the congressional career of our colleague.

My friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), just mentioned a few minutes ago the artistic excellence which typifies Congressman TORRES. I

have been after him, and I guess for purposes of full disclosure, Mr. Speaker, I should point out that I have been after him for a long time to favor us with a work of art to hang in the office that belongs to the people of the Sixth Congressional District of Arizona, because, again, he is from that district. I would hope that now, as he prepares to leave this institution, that he might take some time and on canvas convey the nature not only of his experience here in the Congress of the United States, but the proud heritage he brought from Miami, Arizona.

And to my colleagues here, and, Mr. Speaker, to those who watch us coast to coast and around the world via C-SPAN where we often see heated arguments, where the punditocracy would tell us how savage and how difficult these days are, let us say that together with one voice we celebrate many different opinions, many different routes to this chamber, and one exceptional life and person in Congressman TORRES.

My friend, thank you for your service.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona. I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) for convening such an important night as this. While the previous speaker just spoke about the fact that this great, distinguished man was born in Arizona, we claim him in California. He has given 16 years of distinguished service in this House. He hails from California, representing the people of his district, and has done that with nobility, with conviction, with integrity, with character.

I tell my colleagues, I knew about ESTEBAN TORRES before I knew ESTEBAN TORRES, because he is a man of great a sense of character of people. He knew what he came here for, and he did the work of the people whom he was voted into office by.

Esteban walks very softly. He seems to be a mild-mannered man, and yet he has carried a big stick, a big stick for justice, for opportunity, for the people of California, for jobs. Everyone knew that before he came here, he was part of a union organization where he served very well there, but he came here knowing that his job was to ensure that job opportunities were for the working-class citizens, and he has done that. He has done that with conviction, with every sense of caring and compassion.

ESTEBAN knew that when civil rights became a great issue that he was right there in the forefront on the civil rights issues. It is no wonder that people of all nationalities are coming to this well tonight from both sides of the aisle talking about this distinguished man, this man who has served Californians so well. He is one of our finest who is leaving, but he leaves a record,

a record that is impeccable, a record that we must all try to emulate, a record that suggests to us that one comes to this House to do the people's business. One does not come here for shenanigans, one does not come here for partisan bickering, but one comes here with a purpose, and his purpose was to ensure that California was well represented. He is the highest ranking Hispanic Member from California who sits on the Committee on Appropriations.

I am pleased to stand before my colleagues to tell them that ESTEBAN made sure that California got its fair share of any appropriations bill that came out. California is very proud of that, I say to the gentleman, because we knew that the gentleman was behind us every step of the way. When the gentleman brought forth his crime bill knowing about the gangs in Los Angeles, east side, south central, throughout the State whereby the FBI will be working with the local police departments to ensure that we crack down on gangs, it became a very noted piece of legislation, not only in this House, but across this Nation.

The gentleman stands tall. The gentleman stands tall for the American people as well as Californians, irrespective of Latinos, African-Americans, Anglos or what have you. And to me, that is a man of courage. That is a statesman when one can stand in this well and say, thank you, thank you for the nobility that you have brought to this House, thank you for the statesmanlike position that you have brought.

I say to the gentleman, with both of us having five children, we have something in common, but enjoy your retirement, enjoy now your family that has sacrificed so much for you to be a part of this House, and above all, enjoy just some solace and silence for ESTEBAN TORRES. We congratulate you, the great Representative of California.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ), and I thank her very much for having the wisdom to gather us together to be able to honor a man with great honor, ESTEBAN TORRES.

I am from Texas, and there has been Arizona talk on the floor today, and there has been California talk on the floor today, but let me say to my colleagues that with the enormous diverse population of the State of Texas, the gentleman has a great fan club. For people recognize merit and quality and excellence, no matter where one comes from.

I have had the pleasure and honor, albeit I might be in my sophomore years, if you will, I have had the pleasure and honor of being able to watch a genteel giant, someone who, along with his love of family and Nation, understands people.

So I came to the floor because I did not want this tribute to end without being able to acknowledge how those who may not have shared your committee assignments have watched your quiet and deliberative actions and your ability to capture the essence of issues on the floor of the House and be able to focus in: How can we help the working man and woman in America? How can we ensure that whether or not one came to this Nation in the bottom of the belly of a slave boat or one walked across our borders, or possibly one was born and then worked on various farms across this Nation, how can one stand underneath the flag and claim one's birthright, the equality for all men and women and children in this Nation?

The gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES) showed us how to do that. The gentleman simply said that if this Congress is to be the Congress to fulfill the promise of the Constitution, then there should not be one person left out of the circle of empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have been able to share that with the gentleman. I must say that not knowing all of the gentleman's legislative agenda or legislative initiatives, I certainly do believe that the gentleman has been one voice who has been able to stand up for those who certainly cannot speak for themselves.

I do think that the gentleman's desire for humanitarian aid for Cuba should be recognized and appreciated, for we must understand that people are people everywhere. People need help everywhere. People who are voiceless need to have those who can speak for them.

The gentleman has always mentioned to me his grandchildren. I know the gentleman has wonderful children, but I know the gentleman for his love of his grandchildren, but that is someone who loves people. For that, ESTEBAN, if I can call you by your first name, I wish you greatness that you already have achieved. I know that California is most grateful that you will now come home to lead, maybe in the cards is the governorship or something else, and I see him waving his head, but there is much room for a man like him to be able to instruct.

So thank you so very much for allowing this Texan to rise on the floor today, claim part of your legacy, but most of all, give thanks on behalf of the Members of the 18th Congressional District, my constituents, but as well, the citizens of Texas. You are a great American, a great hero.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. REDMOND).

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to thank a good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES). ESTEBAN is my neighbor in the Rayburn Building, our walls adjoin each other, and we have spent many hours talking to and from on the train and the elevator. When he told me he was retiring, I had a very

sad feeling in my heart, because he truly is a man of integrity and one from whom I have learned a great deal about in the Congress.

As a good neighbor, I want to thank the gentleman. He is a man who keeps his word. I want to thank him especially for the support that he personally gave me in our land grant bill for the people of New Mexico. The people of New Mexico are deeply indebted to you for your support of that. At times it may have been a difficult thing to do, but you are a man of your word, and you kept your word.

We wish you the best. We have talked a couple times about your grandchildren, and if they are like most grandchildren, I have seen the T-shirt that says, if I knew grandkids were so great, I would have had them first, and I think your grandkids, the way you talk about them and how proud you are, know that you feel that way.

I am going to miss you in the 106th Congress, but I do want to thank you for the support and the encouragement that you have been to me. Again, you are a man of your word, a man of integrity, and it has been an honor to be a colleague of yours.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to the gentleman that there were many of our colleagues who wanted to be here tonight to pay their respects and to let the gentleman know how important he has been to their lives, but unfortunately, because of schedules, were not able to attend. So from them I just convey the best of wishes, and I yield the rest of the time to the gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply moved by the gentlewoman's gesture tonight of ordering this Special Order on my behalf and calling forth so many of my colleagues to come here. The greatest honor there is to serve in this Chamber, the House of Representatives, which, as everybody has just witnessed, brings together men and women of all walks of life in a common purpose here. I am so thankful, and I cannot find the words to tell my colleagues. I am so thankful that people in the 34th Congressional District of California sent me here 16 years ago and have reelected me ever since until now, in the 105th session. It is the highest tribute I dare say that can be paid to an individual when his constituency sends him here.

But, Mr. Speaker, getting here is not my job alone. This took many people along the way to do that, the people that raised me, my mother, my grandmother, my teachers, the heroes that inspired me to seek higher office because they meant something to me. My wife, whom you have just heard about, who is my strongest partner, my working partner, a woman that has been by my side for some 44 years. I would not be here, so many of us would not be here, if it was not for our spouses. We are nothing really without them. And I would have been nothing without my Arcy.

She stood by me, allowed me to give public service, sacrificed very hard, and I am so, I am so thankful that she has done this for me. Not to speak of my children who stood with me in the picket line when they were growing up and I was a member of the labor movement, who followed me in the campaigns with their bumper stickers and their posters, who even today, my oldest daughter Carmen is my campaign manager. These are the people around me that made me what I am.

The working men and women of our country. The labor movement people, the people in my auto factory that enticed me early in the 1950s that I should seek elective office in the union by exposing me to that political process and electing me for the first time as a shop steward, a chief shop steward at the Chrysler Corporation in Los Angeles. That opened up tremendous windows of opportunity for me to seek in the future.

Yes, I have a lot of mentors that have brought me to this moment here in the people's House.

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I could name them, so many of them. My colleagues may not recognize all the names, but I have to call out to them. Frank Munoz, who was an early mentor; the Ruther brothers, Walter and Victor and Roy; Bobby Kennedy, Paul Schraeg, Reverend Andrew Young, Cesar Chavez, Tip O'Neill, Jim Wright, these are all people who really were my heroes.

Early in my working years some 44 years ago, when I was in the auto plant, a rising star came forth in Los Angeles, a young city councilman who had finally captured the city councilmanship. He moved my spirit because he was like a hero to me. His name was Edward Roybal. I yearned to be like Ed Roybal. I wanted to be somebody like him. He was my role model. He went on to become a member of this very chamber and served with great distinction on the Committee on Appropriations. Twenty-nine years later, I joined him as I arrived here with the freshman class of 1983. Would my colleagues believe that with the departure of Ed Roybal on his retirement that I would succeed him on the Committee on Appropriations? Well, I did.

It was that dream I was having that I could be here and join people like him, but now it is my turn, it is my turn to leave, it is my turn to turn the page on this legislative chapter of my life, but it is a bittersweet time for me and my wife Arcy.

We have enjoyed our 27 years in this area in the Nation's capital. It is difficult to leave. It is very difficult to leave tonight, to hear the adulations of all my colleagues here on both sides of the aisle. I know it is coming to an end. The other night, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) hosted a dinner for the California delegation and at least 20 of my colleagues were there to do what I have heard here to-

night. For 2 days I walked on air, and I know that tomorrow I will do the same, having heard all of these wonderful things about me.

I think it just speaks to the kind of camaraderie, the kind of solidarity that we can have in this House chamber. We can have it. We have it on many occasions; but, yes, one must move on. There has to be change, and I want to make it possible to have that change.

California beckons me to come back, and my family to come back, to be with our children and our grandchildren. It is really a new page in my life, for I am not retiring. I am going to stay active on international forums. I am going to stay active on human rights issues. I will teach. I will write. As some of my colleagues have said, for sure I am going to be doing a lot of drawing and a lot of painting, depicting in canvas or sketch paper those scenes that depict the life of this House of Representatives and for people in Congress.

So I want to thank all of my colleagues for making this evening a momentous occasion for me and my family. I want to thank all the people in front of me here who over the 16 years have labored hard into the night, the pages, the clerks, the staffers, the policemen. Everybody has been a part of this life of mine, and I now leave and thank all the Members sincerely from the bottom of my heart for having made it possible for me.

I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ), for allowing this to take place. Good evening and good night.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES). As we noted, he will be missed here but I know that he will keep in touch with us and we will seek his guidance.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1892. An act to provide that a person closely related to a judge of a court exercising judicial power under article III of the United States Constitution (other than the Supreme Court) may not be appointed as a judge of the same court, and for other purposes.

UNDERFUNDING OF OUR NATIONAL MILITARY AND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY APPARATUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full hour but I do want to take some time to discuss what I think is the real scandal in